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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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            CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - WESTERN DIVISION
 3
       HONORABLE MAAME EWUSI-MENSAH FRIMPONG, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE
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 5
    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 6
                        Plaintiff,
 7
                                              Case No. CR 23-169 MEMF
         v.
 8
    MICHAEL BARZMAN,
 9
                        Defendant.
10
11
                   REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
                          CHANGE OF PLEA HEARING
12
                           FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023
                                 10:15 A.M.
13
                          LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
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23
            MYRA L. PONCE, CSR NO. 11544, CRR, RPR, RMR, RDR
                      FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
24
                      350 WEST 1ST STREET, ROOM 4455
                      LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
25
                               (213) 894-2305
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1	APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL:
2	
3	FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
4	E. MARTIN ESTRADA
5	United States Attorney BY: ALIX MCKENNA
6	Assistant United States Attorney United States Courthouse 312 North Spring Street
7	Los Angeles, California 90012
8	
9	FOR THE DEFENDANT:
10	LAW OFFICES OF JOEL C. KOURY BY: JOEL C. KOURY
11	Attorney at Law 3435 Ocean Park Boulevard, Suite 107-50
12	Santa Monica, California 90405
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24 25	
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	1	FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023; 10:15 A.M.
	2	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
	3	-000-
	4	THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Calling Item No. 1,
10:15AM	5	LA Criminal Case 23-00169 MEMF, United States of America versus
	6	Michael Barzman.
	7	Counsel, please state your appearances.
	8	MS. MCKENNA: Good morning, Your Honor.
	9	Alix McKenna for the Government.
10:15AM	10	THE COURT: Good morning.
	11	MR. KOURY: Good morning, Your Honor. Joel Koury
	12	with Mr. Barzman who is at counsel table with me.
	13	THE COURT: Good morning.
	14	MR. KOURY: And I wanted to apologize to the Court
10:16AM	15	and staff, Your Honor. We were a few minutes late because
	16	counsel and I were outside the wrong courtroom. And I had I
	17	was the person that started that mistake, and I apologize.
	18	THE COURT: Okay. Understood. No problem. Thank
	19	you.
10:16AM	20	Give me just a moment.
	21	(Pause in the proceedings.)
	22	THE COURT: Can I see counsel at sidebar briefly?
	23	Thank you.
	24	Off the record.
10:17AM	25	(Off-the-record discussion.)

THE COURT: Okay. We are back on the record. 1 2 Good morning to both counsel. Good morning, Mr. Barzman. I understand from your 3 4 counsel that you do have some family present and if counsel could just introduce them. 10:18AM 5 6 MR. KOURY: Your Honor, present in the courtroom is 7 Arisa Ortiz who is here as a support person for my client. 8 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. 9 So, Ms. Ortiz, thank you for being here. I just wanted to acknowledge your presence. As the attorneys will 10:18AM 10 11 know, there are many defendants in criminal cases that have 12 nobody that comes to support them on any of their court dates. 13 So I really appreciate your presence here today. imagine it's not easy for you to be here. And -- but I trust 14 10:18AM 15 Mr. Barzman really support -- appreciates your support. And I do commend you for being here with us today, and I welcome you 16 to my courtroom. 17 18 So with that, we will get started. Okav. 19 Mr. Barzman, this is the first time I'm meeting you 10:18AM 20 because everything is moving sort of fast. But I understand 21 that you were before another judge for your arraignment, and 22 I'm the judge who's going to handle things from here on out. 23 There's going to be a lot of questions and answers 24 today. I'm going to ask both of you to stand at counsel 25 10:19AM table -- excuse me -- stand at the lectern, as you're able.

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1
                        I'll repeat this a number of times, but let me say
         2
             this to begin with, that no one wants you to be rushed during
         3
             this process. And it's very important that you understand
         4
             absolutely everything that happens.
                        So if at a certain point you are confused or you
10:19AM
         5
         6
            have a question or you need to ask me something or you need to
         7
            ask your attorney something, please interrupt me or ask your
         8
            attorney to interrupt me.
                        If at a certain point you're just feeling
10:19AM
        10
            overwhelmed and you need a break to talk to your attorney or
        11
             just to breathe, then interrupt me or ask your attorney to
        12
             interrupt me because it's very important that, as you have
        13
             already discussed with your attorney, there are some serious
            consequences that are going to flow from what happens today.
        14
10:19AM
        15
            And my role is to make sure that you know all of those
             consequences and that you freely accept all of them.
        16
        17
                        And if at a point you need to take a break to talk
        18
            about it with your attorney further or just to think, then you
        19
             should let us know. Understood?
10:20AM
        20
                        THE DEFENDANT:
                                        Yes.
        21
                        THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
        22
                        So I will -- yes, Counsel?
        23
                        MR. KOURY: Could I have one minute?
        24
                        THE COURT:
                                    Yes. We'll go off the record.
        25
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(Off-the-record discussion between
         1
         2
                         the defendant and his counsel.)
                        THE COURT: Okay. So I will ask counsel and
         3
         4
            Mr. Barzman to take the podium.
                        And, Counsel, the podium actually goes -- there's a
10:20AM
         5
         6
            button to the right of the microphone on the podium that allows
         7
            it to go up and down. So if --
         8
                        MR. KOURY: Understood, Your Honor.
         9
                        THE COURT: Whoever's going to be standing there, if
            you need to raise it or lower it --
10:21AM
        10
        11
                        MR. KOURY: Your Honor --
        12
                        THE COURT: -- please do so.
        13
                        Yes?
        14
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    The reason why I asked for that -- the
10:21AM
        15
            momentary break, Mr. Barzman -- as you will discover when the
        16
            pretrial sentencing report is prepared, Mr. Barzman has
        17
            suffered from cancer and he has a prosthetic -- well, it's not
        18
            prosthetic, but he has a limb replacement in his leq.
        19
                        THE COURT:
                                    Okay.
10:21AM
        20
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    And I was just checking with him if it's
        21
            going to be difficult for him to stand for the 15, 20 minutes,
        22
            however long the Court's questioning may be.
        23
                        He's indicated that he thinks he is comfortable
        24
            doing it. But in the event that he's having difficulty, I'm
        25
10:21AM
            going to notify the Court and then we may ask to sit down, if
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1
            needed.
         2
                        THE COURT: Okay. Well, why don't we just sit down.
            We just sit down and we eliminate that added stress.
         3
         4
                        MR. KOURY: Okay.
10:21AM
         5
                        THE COURT:
                                    So you can both be seated. And just
         6
            make sure, counsel, if you pull the microphones, both, close to
         7
            you so that we can all be heard.
         8
                        Wonderful. Okay.
         9
                        So with that, Counsel, I understand that Mr. Barzman
10:22AM
        10
            wishes to enter a plea of guilty pursuant to the agreement that
        11
            was filed on April 11th and found at ECF No. 3?
        12
                        MR. KOURY: That's correct, Your Honor.
        13
                        THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
                        And, Counsel, you can -- in light of all this, you
        14
10:22AM
        15
            can -- both of you can remain seated.
                                                    Thank you.
        16
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    Thank you.
        17
                        THE COURT:
                                    The plea agreement will be incorporated
        18
            and made a part of this proceeding.
        19
                        Let me inquire of the prosecutor, Ms. McKenna. Are
        20
10:22AM
             there any victims and have they been notified of this
        21
            proceeding and, if so, do they wish to be heard?
        22
                        MS. MCKENNA: No, Your Honor.
        23
                        THE COURT:
                                    Thank you.
        24
                        There are no victims and, therefore, none that wish
        25
            to be heard?
10:22AM
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1 MS. MCKENNA: There are no victims that wish to be 2 heard, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. 4 Mr. Barzman, before I accept your plea of quilty, I must be sure that you're fully informed of your rights and that 10:22AM 5 6 you understand your rights and the nature of this proceeding. 7 So as mentioned, I'm going to ask you a series of questions and 8 I'm going to tell you about certain rights. If you don't understand one of my questions or any 10:23AM 10 statement that I make, please tell me and I will stop and make 11 it clear for you. 12 Also, as I indicated before, you can stop me at any 13 time to talk to your lawyer or if you just need a break, please let me know. 14 10:23AM 15 And I'll just reiterate, as I said before, it's very important that you understand and are freely agreeing to 16 17 everything that happens here today. So please interrupt me or 18 ask your lawyer to interrupt me if at any point you need a 19 break. 10:23AM 20 I will now ask the courtroom deputy clerk to administer the oath. 21 22 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Please raise your right hand. 23 Do you solemnly swear that you will make true 24 answers to such questions that the Court may ask you regarding 25 your change of plea so help you God? 10:23AM

	1	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
	2	THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you.
	3	THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Barzman, do you understand
	4	that you are now under oath and your answers may be used
10:24AM	5	against you in any prosecution for perjury or making a false
	6	statement?
	7	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
	8	THE COURT: Do you understand that you have the
	9	right to remain silent and not to answer any of my questions?
10:24AM	10	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
	11	THE COURT: Do you give up that right to remain
	12	silent?
	13	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
	14	THE COURT: Counsel, do you join?
10:24AM	15	MR. KOURY: I do, Your Honor.
	16	THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, what is your true and
	17	correct, full name?
	18	THE DEFENDANT: Michael Philip Barzman.
	19	THE COURT: Thank you.
10:24AM	20	And Philip is spelled?
	21	THE DEFENDANT: P-h-i-l-i-p.
	22	THE COURT: Thank you.
	23	How old are you?
	24	THE DEFENDANT: 45.
10:24AM	25	THE COURT: Did you graduate from high school?

	1	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
	2	THE COURT: Did you graduate from college?
	3	THE DEFENDANT: I did partial college, Your Honor.
	4	THE COURT: How many years?
10:24AM	5	THE DEFENDANT: Two years.
	6	THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
	7	Have you been treated recently for any mental
	8	illness or addiction to narcotics of any kind?
	9	THE DEFENDANT: AA but I'm in AA.
10:25AM	10	THE COURT: Thank you.
	11	Are you under the influence of any drug, medication,
	12	or alcoholic beverage of any kind?
	13	THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
	14	THE COURT: Have you had any drugs, medication, or
10:25AM	15	alcohol within the last three days?
	16	THE DEFENDANT: No.
	17	THE COURT: And so you don't Mr your attorney
	18	mentioned your cancer diagnosis. And I do wish you the best
	19	with respect to that.
10:25AM	20	There's no medication you're taking for that?
	21	THE DEFENDANT: No.
	22	THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
	23	Do you suffer from any mental condition or
	24	disability that would prevent you from fully understanding the
10:25AM	25	charges against you or the consequences of your guilty plea?

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1
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
         2
                        THE COURT: Is there any reason we should not go
         3
             forward today?
         4
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
10:25AM
         5
                        THE COURT: Mr. Koury?
         6
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    Yes.
         7
                        THE COURT: Sorry, Counsel. Can you pronounce your
         8
            name?
         9
                        MR. KOURY: Koury is correct, Your Honor.
                        THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
10:25AM
        10
        11
                        Have you talked to your client today about these
        12
            proceedings?
                        MR. KOURY: I have.
        13
        14
                        THE COURT: Do you have any reason to believe he
10:26AM
        15
            should not go forward with this plea today?
        16
                        MR. KOURY: No, Your Honor.
        17
                                    Do you believe that he's in possession
                        THE COURT:
        18
            of his faculties and is competent to proceed?
        19
                        MR. KOURY: Yes, Your Honor.
10:26AM
        20
                        THE COURT:
                                    Based on the statements of the defendant
            and his counsel and my observations, I find that the defendant
        21
        22
             is in full possession of his faculties and is competent to
        23
            proceed.
        24
                        Mr. Barzman, you are charged with making false
            statements, in violation of Title 18 of the United States Code,
10:26AM
        25
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1 Section 1001(a)(2), which is a felony. Do you understand the 2 charge? THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor. 3 4 THE COURT: Now, you have the constitutional right to be charged by an Indictment returned by a grand jury. 10:26AM 5 6 can waive that right and consent to being charged by an 7 Information filed by the U.S. Attorney. And in this case, the felony charges against you have been brought by the filing of 8 an Information. Unless you waive Indictment, you may not be charged 10:26AM 10 11 with a felony unless a grand jury finds that there is probable 12 cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that you committed it. 13 If you do not waive Indictment, the Government may 14 10:27AM 15 present the case to the grand jury and ask that the grand jury indict you. 16 17 And a grand jury is composed of at least 16 and not 18 more than 23 persons. At least 12 grand jurors must find that 19 there is probable cause to believe that you committed the crime 10:27AM 20 with which you are charged before you may be indicted. 21 grand jury might or might not indict you. 22 If you waive Indictment by the grand jury, the case 23 will proceed against you on the U.S. Attorney's Information, as 24 though you had been indicted. 25 Have you discussed waiving your right to Indictment 10:27AM

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by the grand jury with your lawyer?
         1
         2
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
                        THE COURT: And do you understand your right to
         3
         4
             Indictment by a grand jury?
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:27AM
         5
         6
                        THE COURT: Has anyone made any promises,
         7
             representations, or quarantees of any kind to you in order to
         8
            get you to waive your right to an Indictment?
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
10:28AM
        10
                        THE COURT: Has anyone attempted in any way to
        11
             threaten you, your family, or anyone close to you to get you to
        12
            waive your right to an Indictment?
        13
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
        14
                        THE COURT: Has anyone attempted in any way to force
10:28AM
        15
            you to waive your right to an Indictment?
        16
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
        17
                        THE COURT: Do you want to waive and give up your
        18
            right to an Indictment by a grand jury?
        19
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:28AM
        20
                        THE COURT: Counsel, have you discussed with your
        21
            client his right to be charged by an Indictment?
        22
                        MR. KOURY: I have, Your Honor.
        23
                        THE COURT: Do you know of any reason why he should
        24
            not waive Indictment?
        25
10:28AM
                       MR. KOURY: No, Your Honor.
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1
                        THE COURT: Are you satisfied that the waiver is
         2
             knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently made?
         3
                        MR. KOURY: I am, Your Honor.
         4
                        THE COURT: Do you concur in the waiver?
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    I do.
10:28AM
         5
         6
                        THE COURT:
                                    I have a signed Waiver of Indictment
         7
             filed on April 24th, 2023, at ECF 14.
                        Counsel, do you have a copy of it in front of you?
         8
         9
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    I do not, but I'm familiar with it
10:29AM
        10
            because we signed it.
        11
                        THE COURT:
                                    Thank you.
        12
                        I just wanted to have Mr. Barzman confirm in open
        13
            court that it's his signature on the form. So if the
        14
            Government doesn't have a copy, we can print a copy and show it
10:29AM
        15
             to him real quick. I'll ask the clerk to do that.
        16
                        We'll go off the record for a moment.
        17
                        (Pause in the proceedings.)
        18
                        THE COURT: Okay. We're back on the record.
        19
                        And the clerk has printed a copy of the Waiver of
10:30AM
        20
             Indictment and given it to counsel and was showing it to
        21
            Mr. Barzman.
        22
                        Mr. Barzman, is this your signature on the form?
        23
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is, Your Honor.
        24
                        THE COURT: Okay. Did you read and understand the
        25
            waiver before you signed it?
10:30AM
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	1	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
	2	THE COURT: In the case of United States versus
	3	Barzman, I find the defendant is fully competent and aware of
	4	the nature of his right to require that the Government proceed
10:30AM	5	by way of an Indictment. I further find that the waiver is
	6	freely, intelligently, and voluntarily made. I, therefore,
	7	accept the waiver that was filed.
	8	Okay. Turning to Ms. McKenna.
	9	Have you completed a review of your file and the
10:30AM	10	file and notes of any other prosecutors on the case to
	11	determine whether there is any material favorable to the
	12	defense or that might lead to information favorable to the
	13	defense that has not yet been provided subject to the
	14	limitations in Ruiz? Have you completed that review?
10:31AM	15	MS. MCKENNA: Yes, Your Honor. And all such
	16	material has been provided to counsel.
	17	THE COURT: Thank you.
	18	Mr. Barzman, have you received a copy of the
	19	Information that we talked about, that's the written statement
10:31AM	20	of the charges against you?
	21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have, Your Honor.
	22	THE COURT: And for the record, the Information is
	23	found at ECF No. 11 excuse me I think that's ECF No. 1
	24	and was filed on April 11th.
10:31AM	25	You do have the right to have me read the

	1	Information to you. Would you like me to read it to you?
	2	THE DEFENDANT: No, thank you, Your Honor.
	3	THE COURT: Do you give up that right?
	4	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:31AM	5	THE COURT: You also have the following
	6	constitutional rights that you will be giving up if you plead
	7	guilty:
	8	You have the right to plead not guilty to any
	9	offense charged against you and to persist in that plea.
10:32AM	10	You have the right to a speedy and public trial.
	11	You have the right to a trial by jury.
	12	At trial, you would be presumed to be innocent, and
	13	the Government would have to prove your guilt by proving each
	14	element of the charge beyond a reasonable doubt.
10:32AM	15	In a jury trial, your attorney, you, the prosecutor,
	16	and myself would participate in selecting 12 members of the
	17	community to serve as your jury. I'm looking over there
	18	because they would sit to my left.
	19	At the trial, the Government would present its
10:32AM	20	evidence, and you could only be convicted if all 12 members of
	21	the jury found unanimously that the Government had proven each
	22	and every element of the charge against you beyond a reasonable
	23	doubt.
	24	And now, if both you and Government the
10:32AM	25	Government give up the right to a jury trial, you also have the

	1	right to be tried by a judge. That would be by me.
	2	You have the right to assistance of counsel for your
	3	defense, even if you do not enter into a plea agreement.
	4	And if you cannot afford counsel, I will appoint you
10:33AM	5	counsel free of charge to assist you at trial and at every
	6	other stage of the proceedings.
	7	You have the right to confront and cross-examine the
	8	witnesses against you, that is, to see and hear all the
	9	witnesses and have them questioned by your lawyer.
10:33AM	10	You have the right to present evidence and have
	11	witnesses subpoenaed and compelled to testify on your behalf.
	12	You have the right to testify yourself on your own
	13	behalf.
	14	You have the privilege against self-incrimination,
10:33AM	15	that is, you have the right not to testify or to incriminate
	16	yourself in any way.
	17	If you went to trial and you decided not to testify,
	18	that fact could not be used against you.
	19	By pleading guilty, you are giving up that right and
10:34AM	20	you are incriminating yourself.
	21	Finally, if you go to trial and you are convicted,
	22	you have the right to appeal your conviction and your sentence.
	23	Has your lawyer advised you of all of these rights?
	24	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:34AM	25	THE COURT: Do you understand all of them?

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1
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
         2
                        THE COURT: Do you have any questions about any of
         3
            them?
         4
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
10:34AM
         5
                        THE COURT: Do you need any more time to talk to
         6
            your lawyer about any of them?
         7
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
         8
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that if I accept your
            plea, you will be incriminating yourself and you will have
            waived or, in other words, given up your right to a trial and
10:34AM
        10
        11
            all of the other rights I just mentioned?
        12
                        THE DEFENDANT: I understand, Your Honor.
        13
                        THE COURT: Do you give up those rights?
        14
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:34AM
        15
                        THE COURT: Counsel, are you satisfied that each of
             these waivers is knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently
        16
            made?
        17
        18
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    I am, Your Honor.
        19
                                    Do you concur and join in each of the
                        THE COURT:
10:34AM
        20
            waivers?
        21
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    I do, Your Honor.
        22
                        THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, again, you are charged with
        23
            making false statements, in violation of Title 18 of the
        24
            United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2), which is a felony.
        25
            I understand that is the charge that you are pleading to.
10:35AM
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1
                        I'm going to ask the prosecutor at this time to
         2
             describe the nature of the charges.
         3
                        MS. MCKENNA: Yes, Your Honor.
                        The defendant understands that for the defendant to
         4
            be quilty of the crime charged in the Information, that is,
10:35AM
         5
         6
            making false statements to a Government agency, in violation of
         7
             18, U.S.C. 1001(a)(2), the following must be true:
         8
                        First, the defendant made a false statement;
         9
                        Second, the statement was made in a manner within
             the jurisdiction of the FBI;
10:35AM
        10
        11
                        Third, the defendant acted willfully, that is, the
        12
            defendant acted deliberately and with knowledge, both that the
             statement was untrue and that his conduct was unlawful; and
        13
                        Fourth, the statement was material to the activities
        14
10:35AM
        15
             or decisions of the FBI, that is, it had a natural tendency to
             influence or was capable of influencing the agency's decisions
        16
             or activities.
        17
        18
                        THE COURT:
                                    Thank you.
        19
                        Mr. Barzman, do you understand the nature of the
10:36AM
        20
             charge?
        21
                        THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.
        22
                        THE COURT:
                                    Have you discussed the charge and the
        23
             elements of the charge with your lawyer?
        24
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        25
                        THE COURT: Do you have any questions about the
10:36AM
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	1	
	1	charge?
	2	THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
	3	THE COURT: Have you been advised of the maximum and
	4	any minimum penalty?
10:36AM	5	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
	6	THE COURT: Ms. McKenna, can you please describe the
	7	penalties, including the statutory maximum, any mandatory
	8	minimum, the term of supervised release, fines, and special
	9	assessments?
10:36AM	10	MS. MCKENNA: The statutory maximum sentence that
	11	the Court can impose for a violation of 18, U.S.C., 1001(a)(2),
	12	is five years' imprisonment, a three-year period of supervised
	13	release, a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross
	14	loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest, and a
10:36AM	15	mandatory special assessment of \$100.
	16	THE COURT: Thank you.
	17	Are there any Apprendi issues in this case,
	18	Ms. McKenna?
	19	MS. MCKENNA: No, Your Honor.
10:37AM	20	THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, you may be subject to
	21	supervised release for a number of years after your release
	22	from prison, if you are sent to prison.
	23	Have you discussed with your lawyer and do you
	24	understand supervised release?
10:37AM	25	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

	1	THE COURT: Do you understand that if you are
	2	sentenced to serve some time in prison and you are placed on
	3	supervised release following imprisonment and you violate one
	4	or more of the conditions of your supervised release, you may
10:37AM	5	be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised
	6	release allowed by law? Do you understand that?
	7	THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.
	8	THE COURT: Do you understand that, if that happens,
	9	it could result in your serving a total term of imprisonment
10:38AM	10	greater than the statutory maximum? Do you understand that?
	11	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
	12	THE COURT: Do you understand that if you are now on
	13	parole, probation, or supervised release, this plea today alone
	14	may be the basis for revocation of that parole, probation, or
10:38AM	15	supervised release and, as a result, you may be returned to
	16	prison on that other case? Do you understand that?
	17	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
	18	THE COURT: Do you understand that if you are not a
	19	citizen of the United States, today's plea and conviction may
10:38AM	20	subject you to deportation or removal from the United States,
	21	which in some circumstances may be mandatory, and it may result
	22	in the denial of naturalization or citizenship, amnesty,
	23	residency status, and admission to the United States in the
	24	future? Do you understand that?
10:38AM	25	THE DEFENDANT: I understand, Your Honor.

	1	THE COURT: And the record will reflect that the
	2	plea agreement also contains the immigration advisement at
	3	paragraph 8.
	4	Mr. Barzman, you are pleading to a felony offense.
10:39AM	5	If your plea is accepted, I will find you guilty. That may
	6	deprive you of valuable civil rights, including the right to
	7	vote, the right to hold public office, the right to serve on a
	8	jury, and the right to possess a firearm of any kind. Do you
	9	understand that?
10:39AM	10	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
	11	THE COURT: Ms. McKenna, is there any issue of
	12	restitution in this case?
	13	MS. MCKENNA: There may be, Your Honor. And likely
	14	that will be a complex issue that would be the basis of a
10:39AM	15	future hearing.
	16	THE COURT: Okay. So it's not addressed explicitly
	17	in the plea agreement?
	18	MS. MCKENNA: No, Your Honor.
	19	THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Barzman, I may order you to
10:40AM	20	pay restitution to any victim of the offense. And as
	21	Ms. McKenna has indicated, it's not addressed in the plea
	22	agreement.
	23	Do you understand the concept of restitution?
	24	THE DEFENDANT: Yeah, I understand, Your Honor.
10:40AM	25	THE COURT: Okay. Counsel, do you need just a few

```
1
            moments to speak with Mr. Barzman about that?
         2
                        MR. KOURY: No. I think -- I think he's -- he and I
         3
            understand the consequences.
                        THE COURT: And you've previously discussed it?
         4
                        MR. KOURY: I have, yes.
10:40AM
         5
                        THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
         6
         7
                        Okay. Mr. Barzman, do you understand and agree that
         8
            you may have to pay restitution in this case?
         9
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
                        THE COURT: And, Ms. McKenna, is forfeiture an issue
10:40AM
        10
        11
             in this case?
        12
                        MS. MCKENNA: No, Your Honor.
        13
                        THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
        14
                        And under some circumstances, Mr. Barzman, I may
10:41AM
        15
            order you to provide notice of the conviction to victims of the
        16
            offense.
        17
                        Now, do you understand the possible consequences of
        18
            your plea, including the maximum sentence you can receive and
             the other terms that the AUSA and I described?
        19
10:41AM
        20
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        21
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that parole has been
        22
             abolished and, if you are sent to prison, you will not be
        23
            released on parole?
        2.4
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        25
                        THE COURT: Do you have any questions regarding the
10:41AM
```

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1
            maximum or possible minimum sentence you may possibly receive
         2
             if I accept your plea of guilty?
         3
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
         4
                        THE COURT: Have you discussed the possible
10:41AM
         5
            punishment, the facts of your case, and the possible defenses
         6
            with your lawyer?
         7
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
         8
                        THE COURT: Have you understood everything that has
            been said so far?
10:41AM
        10
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        11
                        THE COURT:
                                    Is there any reason I should not
        12
            continue with these proceedings and take your plea today?
        13
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
        14
                        THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, you will be sentenced under
10:41AM
        15
            the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. Under this law, the
            United States Sentencing Commission has issued Sentencing
        16
        17
            Guidelines. I have to consult these guidelines and take them
        18
            into account in determining your sentence, but I'm not required
            to follow them.
        19
10:42AM
        20
                        In determining your sentence, I am required to
        21
            calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to
        22
             consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing
            Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under Title 18 of the
        23
        2.4
            United States Code, Section 3553(a).
        25
                        Have you and your lawyer talked about how the
10:42AM
```

```
1
            quidelines might be applied in your case?
         2
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
         3
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that, regardless of
             the Sentencing Guidelines range, I may sentence you to prison
         4
             for up to the maximum time allowed by law, which in this case
10:42AM
         5
         6
             is five years?
         7
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
                        THE COURT: Has your lawyer explained how the
         8
            various elements and factors will be used to determine your
        10
             sentence?
10:43AM
        11
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        12
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that neither I nor
        13
            your lawyer will be able to determine the guidelines range for
            your case until after the presentence report has been prepared?
        14
10:43AM
        15
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        16
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that you and the
        17
            Government will have an opportunity to review the report and
        18
             challenge the reported facts and the quidelines range
        19
             calculation and to suggest that I consider other factors?
10:43AM
        20
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        21
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that the sentence
        22
             imposed by me may be different from any estimate your lawyer
        23
            may have given you?
        2.4
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        25
                        THE COURT: And do you understand that, after your
10:43AM
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1
            quidelines range has been calculated, I can impose a sentence
         2
             that is within the guidelines, below the guidelines, or even
            above the guidelines? Do you understand that?
         3
         4
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:43AM
         5
                        THE COURT:
                                    Do you understand that this uncertainty
         6
            would not be a basis to withdraw your guilty plea?
         7
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
         8
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that the
         9
            disappointment you may feel over the guidelines range
10:44AM
        10
             calculation would not be a basis to withdraw your guilty plea?
        11
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        12
                        THE COURT: And do you understand that my eventual
        13
             sentence would not be a basis to withdraw your guilty plea?
        14
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:44AM
        15
                        THE COURT: Okay. Turning to the plea agreement.
        16
            Mr. Koury, do you have it before you?
        17
                        MR. KOURY: I do, Your Honor.
        18
                        THE COURT:
                                    Thank you.
        19
                        Mr. Barzman, did you read the plea agreement and
10:44AM
        20
            discuss it with your lawyer before you signed it?
        21
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        22
                        THE COURT: And if we can turn to what is page 21 of
        23
            the ECF document and 22 of the ECF document, it's a separate --
        24
             scanned pages. Do you see the pages I'm referring to?
        25
10:44AM
                        Are those your signatures on those two pages?
```

	1	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, they are, Your Honor.
	2	THE COURT: Do you understand the terms of the plea
	3	agreement?
	4	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:45AM	5	THE COURT: Do you want any more time to discuss the
	6	plea agreement with your lawyer? Because I'm happy to give you
	7	more time to discuss it.
	8	THE DEFENDANT: No, thank you, Your Honor.
	9	THE COURT: Now, do you understand that I am not a
10:45AM	10	party to the agreement? So I am not bound by the terms of the
	11	agreement. Do you understand that?
	12	THE DEFENDANT: I do, Your Honor.
	13	THE COURT: Has anyone made any promises,
	14	representations, or guarantees of any kind to you in an effort
10:45AM	15	to get you to plead guilty in this case other than what is
	16	contained in the written plea agreement?
	17	THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
	18	THE COURT: Other than what is contained in the
	19	written plea agreement and what has been stated here in open
10:45AM	20	court today and other than a general discussion of the
	21	guidelines with your lawyer, has anyone made you promises of
	22	leniency, a particular sentence or range, probation, or any
	23	other inducement of any kind to get you to plead guilty?
	24	THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
10:46AM	25	THE COURT: Has anyone attempted in any way to

```
1
             threaten you, a family member, or someone close to you to get
         2
             you to plead guilty?
         3
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
         4
                        THE COURT: Has anyone attempted in any way to force
            you to plead quilty in this case?
10:46AM
         5
         6
                        THE DEFENDANT:
                                        No, Your Honor.
         7
                        THE COURT: Are you pleading quilty voluntarily and
            of your own free will?
         8
         9
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:46AM
        10
                        THE COURT: Now, as part of the plea agreement, the
        11
            Government has agreed to make certain recommendations
        12
            concerning your sentence or the offense level to be used in
        13
            determining your sentence.
        14
                        Do you understand that these terms of the plea
10:46AM
        15
            agreement are just recommendations to me and that I can reject
             these recommendations and impose a sentence that is more severe
        16
             than you may expect without allowing you to withdraw your plea?
        17
        18
                        THE DEFENDANT: I understand, Your Honor.
        19
                        THE COURT: Do you understand that by entering into
10:46AM
        20
             this plea agreement and entering a plea of guilty, you will
        21
            have given up or limited your right to appeal this conviction
        22
             and your right to appeal all or part of your sentence?
        23
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        24
                        THE COURT:
                                    I'm going to ask Ms. McKenna to please
        25
            describe the waivers.
10:47AM
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MS. MCKENNA: Defendant understands that, with the
         1
         2
             exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty
         3
            plea was involuntary, by pleading guilty, defendant is waiving
         4
            and giving up any right to appeal defendant's conviction on the
            offense to which defendant is pleading guilty.
10:47AM
         5
         6
                        Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but
         7
             is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which
            defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional and any and
         8
            all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is
             insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.
10:47AM
        10
                        THE COURT: Thank you.
        11
        12
                        Could you also address the waiver of appeal of
        13
            sentence?
        14
                        MS. MCKENNA: Yes, Your Honor.
10:48AM
        15
                        Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a
             total term of imprisonment on the count of conviction below the
        16
        17
             statutory maximum sentence, defendant gives up the right to
        18
             appeal all of the following:
        19
                        The procedures and calculations used to determine
10:48AM
        20
            and impose any portion of the sentence;
        21
                        The terms of imprisonment imposed by the Court;
                        The fine imposed by the Court, provided it is within
        22
        23
             the statutory maximum;
        24
                        To the extent permitted by law, the
        25
            constitutionality or legality of defendant's sentence, provided
10:48AM
```

1 it is within the statutory maximum; 2 The terms of probation or supervised release imposed 3 by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; 4 And any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court. The conditions set 10:48AM 5 6 forth in Second Amended General Order 20-04 of this Court, the 7 drug testing conditions mandated by 18, U.S.C., 3563(a)(5) and 8 3583(d), and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18, U.S.C., 3563(b)(7). 10 THE COURT: And before you continue --10:49AM 11 Mr. Barzman, do you understand that by entering into 12 this plea agreement and entering a plea of guilty, you will 13 also have given up or limited your right to collaterally attack 14 this conviction or your sentence? Do you understand that? 10:49AM 15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Okay. And so I'll ask Ms. McKenna to 17 address the waiver of the right to post-conviction collateral 18 attack. 19 MS. MCKENNA: Defendant also gives up any right to 10:49AM 20 bring a post-conviction collateral attack on the conviction or 21 sentence, except a post-conviction collateral attack based on a 22 claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, claim of newly 23 discovered evidence, or an explicitly retroactive change in the 24 applicable Sentencing Guidelines, sentencing statutes, or 25 statutes of conviction. 10:49AM

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1
                        Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but
         2
             is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which
         3
            defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional and any and
            all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is
         4
             insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.
10:50AM
         5
         6
                        THE COURT:
                                    Thank you.
         7
                        Mr. Barzman, did you discuss giving up all of these
         8
            rights with your lawyer?
         9
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:50AM
        10
                        THE COURT: Based on that discussion and having
        11
             considered this issue, do you agree that you are giving up
        12
             these rights to appeal and collaterally attack on the terms and
        13
             conditions just stated?
        14
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:50AM
        15
                        THE COURT: Okay. Turning to Mr. Koury.
                        The plea agreement indicates on page 20 and 22 that
        16
        17
             it was signed by you and, on the pages referenced earlier,
        18
             signed by Mr. Barzman. Is that correct?
        19
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    That's correct, Your Honor.
10:50AM
        20
                        THE COURT: Did Mr. Barzman sign the agreement in
        21
            your presence?
        22
                        MR. KOURY: Yes. Yes, he did, Your Honor.
        23
            had to think back. I apologize.
        24
                        THE COURT: Okay. No worries.
        25
                        Did you discuss the contents of the agreement with
10:51AM
```

```
1
            Mr. Barzman before he signed it?
         2
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    I did, Your Honor.
         3
                                    Does the agreement represent the entire
                        THE COURT:
         4
             agreement between Mr. Barzman and the Government?
                        MR. KOURY: It does, Your Honor.
10:51AM
         5
         6
                        THE COURT:
                                    Did you review the facts of the case and
         7
            all the discovery provided by the Government with Mr. Barzman?
                                    I did, Your Honor.
         8
                        MR. KOURY:
         9
                        THE COURT:
                                    Did you pursue with him the potential
            defenses he might have?
10:51AM
        10
        11
                        MR. KOURY: I did, Your Honor.
        12
                        THE COURT: Have you advised him concerning the
        13
             legality or admissibility of any statements or confessions or
        14
            other evidence the Government has against him?
10:51AM
        15
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    I have, Your Honor.
        16
                                    To the best of your knowledge, is he
                        THE COURT:
        17
            pleading guilty because of any illegally obtained evidence in
        18
             the possession of the Government?
        19
                        MR. KOURY: No, Your Honor. Not to my -- not that
10:51AM
        20
            I'm aware of.
        21
                        THE COURT:
                                    Did you and Mr. Barzman agree that it
        22
            was in his best interest to enter into this plea agreement?
        23
                        MR. KOURY: We did, Your Honor.
        24
                        THE COURT:
                                    Do you believe that he is entering into
        25
            this plea agreement freely and voluntarily with full knowledge
10:52AM
```

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1
            of the charges and the consequences of the plea?
         2
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    I do, Your Honor.
         3
                        THE COURT: Have there been any promises,
         4
            representations, or quarantees made either to you or to
            Mr. Barzman other than what is contained in the written plea
10:52AM
         5
         6
             agreement and what has been stated here in open court?
         7
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    No, Your Honor.
                        THE COURT: Other than what is contained in the
         8
         9
            written plea agreement and has been stated here in open court
        10
10:52AM
             and other than a general discussion of the guidelines and other
        11
             sentencing considerations, have you given any indication to
        12
            Mr. Barzman of what specific sentence I would impose or
        13
            conveyed to him a promise of a particular sentence or a
            particular sentencing range in the event that I accept his plea
        14
10:52AM
        15
             of quilty?
        16
                        MR. KOURY: No, Your Honor.
        17
                                    Do you know of any reason why I should
                        THE COURT:
        18
            not accept his plea?
        19
                        MR. KOURY:
                                    No, Your Honor.
10:52AM
        20
                        THE COURT:
                                    Do you join in the waiver of jury trial
        21
            and concur in the plea?
                        MR. KOURY: I do, Your Honor.
        22
        23
                        THE COURT: Ms. McKenna, other than what is
        24
             expressly contained in the written plea agreement and what has
        25
            been stated here in open court, has the Government made any
10:53AM
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1
            promises, representations, or quarantees, either to the
         2
            defendant or his counsel?
                        MS. MCKENNA: No, Your Honor.
         3
         4
                        THE COURT: Does the Government waive jury trial?
                        MS. MCKENNA: Yes, Your Honor.
10:53AM
         5
         6
                        THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, are you satisfied with the
         7
             representation your lawyer has provided?
         8
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
         9
                        THE COURT: Have you told your lawyer everything you
            know about your case?
10:53AM
        10
        11
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        12
                        THE COURT: Do you believe he has fully considered
        13
            any defense you may have to the charges?
        14
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:53AM
        15
                        THE COURT: Do you believe he has fully advised you
            concerning this matter?
        16
        17
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        18
                        THE COURT: Have you had enough time to discuss the
            matter with him?
        19
10:53AM
        20
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        21
                        THE COURT: It's important for me to know if you're
        22
            giving your own honest answers to my questions or if you are
        23
             just giving answers that someone else told you to give.
        2.4
                        Are you giving your own honest answers to my
        25
            questions today?
10:54AM
```

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1
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am, Your Honor.
         2
                                    Do you believe that you understand
                        THE COURT:
         3
            everything that happened here today and everything that was
         4
             said by me and by the lawyers?
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
10:54AM
         5
         6
                        THE COURT:
                                    Do you believe that you understand the
         7
             consequences to you of this plea?
         8
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
         9
                        THE COURT: Do you believe that you are competent to
            make the decision to plead guilty?
10:54AM
        10
        11
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        12
                        THE COURT: Do you know of any reason why I should
        13
            not accept your plea of guilty?
        14
                        THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
10:54AM
        15
                        THE COURT: Do you understand, then, that all that
             is left in your case, if I accept your plea of guilty, is the
        16
        17
             imposition of sentence, which may include imprisonment?
        18
                        THE DEFENDANT:
                                       Yes, Your Honor.
        19
                        THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, having in mind all that we
10:54AM
        20
            have discussed regarding your plea of guilty, the rights that
        21
            you will be giving up, the maximum sentence you may receive, do
        22
            you still want to plead quilty?
        23
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        24
                        THE COURT: Okay. Please listen carefully.
        25
10:54AM
            going to ask the prosecutor to state the facts that the
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1 Government would be prepared to prove at trial. And then I'm 2 going to ask you some questions about what she is about to say. And, Ms. McKenna, please proceed. 3 MS. MCKENNA: Yes, Your Honor. 4 The factual basis is about seven pages long. Would 10:55AM 5 6 the Court want me to read the entire factual basis or skip over 7 certain portions? THE COURT: Please read the entire factual basis. 8 9 And maybe just to save your back, you can take the lectern. 10 Thank you. 10:55AM 11 MS. MCKENNA: Thank you, Your Honor. 12 The defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, 13 guilty of the offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead 14 quilty. 10:55AM 15 Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of 16 facts provided below and agree that the statement of facts is 17 sufficient to support a plea of quilty to the charge described 18 in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines 19 factors set forth in paragraph 11 below but is not meant to be 10:55AM 20 a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying 21 criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate 22 to this conduct. 23 On or about August 18 of 2022 and October 13 of 24 2022, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of 25 California, defendant knowingly and willfully made false 10:56AM

1 statements to the FBI. The statements were made in a matter 2 within the jurisdiction of the FBI. Defendant made the 3 statements deliberately with the knowledge that the statements were untrue and the defendant's conduct was unlawful. 4 10:56AM 5 Further, the statements were material to the 6 activities and decisions of the FBI and were capable of 7 influencing the agency's decisions and activities. In approximately 2012, the defendant and an 8 associate J.F. formed a plan to create drawings and paintings 10 in the style of celebrated painter Jean-Michel Basquiat and 10:56AM 11 art -- and market the artwork for sale as if they were 12 authentic works by the artist. 13 Defendant and J.F. worked together to create a series of paintings and drawings designed to look like works by 14 Basquiat, which will be referred to here as "the Fraudulent 10:57AM 15 16 Paintings." 17 J.F. spent a maximum of 30 minutes on each image as 18 little -- and as little as five minutes on others and then gave 19 them to defendant to sell on eBay. 10:57AM 20 Defendant and J.F. agreed to split the money that 21 they made from selling the Fraudulent Paintings. 22 J.F. and defendant created approximately 20 to 23 30 artworks by using various art materials to create colorful 24 images on cardboard. 25 After finishing the images, defendant and J.F. 10:57AM

placed them outdoors to expose them to the elements and thus create an aged appearance consistent with works made in the 1980s when Basquiat was painting. Defendant then sold the works and gave half of the profits to J.F.

The plea agreement indicates that the Fraudulent Paintings created by J.F. and/or the defendant, including -- and then there is a picture of nine works, which is included on page 7.

Provenance is the history of the ownership of a piece of artwork beginning with the hand of the artist and continuing to the present owner of the artwork. Establishing provenance is essential in determining if a piece of artwork is authentic.

Provenance documentation can include invoices, gallery records, gallery labels, or documentation from an artist foundation, estate, or authentication boards, as examples. Provenance records can also include auction records and records of exhibitions of artwork at museums and other art exhibitions.

Exhibiting artwork at museums adds to the authenticity of artworks. Artwork purported to be by an established artist with no provenance has less value than artwork by the same established artist which has an established provenance.

In 2012, during the time the defendant was creating

10:57AM

10:58AM

10:58AM

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10:58AM 20

10:58AM

	1	the Fraudulent Paintings, he also worked as an auctioneer and
	2	ran a business called Mike Barzman Auctions that focused on
	3	purchasing and reselling the contents of unpaid storage units.
	4	Defendant purchased the contents of a unit
10:59AM	5	previously rented by a well-known screenwriter,
	6	Thaddeus Mumford, Jr.
	7	Defendant used the acquisition of Mumford's stored
	8	items to create a false provenance for the Fraudulent
	9	Paintings. Defendant claimed that the Fraudulent Paintings
10:59AM	10	were found inside Mumford's storage unit, along with Mumford's
	11	other possessions.
	12	To bolster this false provenance, defendant gave
	13	buyers of the Fraudulent Paintings a ticket stub from a storage
	14	unit with locker No. 2125 and told them that it had come from
10:59AM	15	Mumford's locker.
	16	Defendant also provided a group of buyers with
	17	notarized documents affirming that the Fraudulent Paintings
	18	came from Mumford's storage unit.
	19	On February 12th of 2022
10:59AM	20	THE COURT: I apologize for interrupting. If I
	21	could ask you to just slow down a little bit for me and the
	22	reporter. Thank you.
	23	MS. MCKENNA: Will do, Your Honor.
	24	On February 12th of 2022, the Orlando Museum of Art
11:00AM	25	opened an exhibit entitled "Heroes & Monsters:

1 Jean-Michel Basquiat, the Thaddeus Mumford, Jr., Venice 2 Collection," featuring 25 paintings purportedly by Basquiat. 3 Most of the featured works had, in fact, been created by defendant and J.F. Defendant was aware of the 4 exhibition and knew that he had created or co-created the 11:00AM 5 majority of the featured works. 6 7 The exhibition catalog included an essay stating 8 that some of the featured pieces had previously been kept in Mumford's storage locker. The essay also referenced a sworn statement from a, quote, "small-time Los Angeles auctioneer," 11:00AM 10 11 defendant, stating the defendant had purchased the contents of 12 Mumford's locker, including paintings on cardboard. Turning to the June 14, 2022, interview and false 13 14 statements. 11:01AM 15 On June 14 of 2022, FBI special agents interviewed defendant at his home in Los Angeles within the Central 16 17 District of California. In the beginning of the interview, the 18 agents cautioned defendant to be honest because lying to an FBI 19 agent can constitute a crime. 11:01AM 20 Defendant told the agents that he had previously 21 been in the business of buying the contents of storage lockers. 22 He claimed that approximately ten years prior to the interview, 23 while working in the storage locker purchasing business, he 24 came across art that he thought, quote, "might have been" by 25 Basquiat, which he sold to, quote, "a couple of groups of 11:01AM

1 people." 2 Defendant told the agents that he sold the works as, 3 quote, "in the manner of" Basquiat, after seeking opinions on their authenticity and hearing from people that the works 4 didn't look right or would be very hard to authenticate. 11:02AM 5 6 Defendant stated that he had doubts as to the 7 authenticity of the works but never told the agents that he knew they were inauthentic. 8 Defendant told the agents that he had purchased the 10 contents of a storage unit belonging to Mumford, that he did 11:02AM 11 not know whether the artworks came from that unit and "never 12 even thought that." 13 Defendant told the agents that members of a group of buyers that included T.B., W.F., and L.M. contacted him for 14 years and repeatedly asked him to sign paperwork saying that 11:02AM 15 16 the works came from the Mumford storage unit. Defendant told 17 the agents that the buyers offered him \$5,000 to sign documents 18 authenticating the works. 19 Agents showed defendant a notarized declaration, 11:02AM 20 signed by defendant, stating that the paintings came from 21 Mumford's storage unit. Defendant claimed that he did not 22 remember signing the document but said he might have. 23 At the time of the interview, defendant knew that 24 Basquiat did not create the Fraudulent Paintings. Further, he

knew that it was a lie to tell the FBI agents that the works,

25

11:03AM

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1
            quote, "might have been" by Basquiat because he and J.F. had
         2
             actually created them. Defendant knew that his statements to
            the contrary were untruthful.
         3
                        Turning to the August 18, 2022, interview and false
         4
11:03AM
         5
            statements.
         6
                        On August 18 of 2022, FBI special agents interviewed
         7
            defendant at the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles
            within the Central District of California.
         8
                        At the beginning of the interview, defendant was
            advised that if he made a knowing and willful false statement,
11:03AM
        10
        11
            it could subject him to criminal prosecution.
        12
                        Defendant described selling paintings purportedly by
        13
            Basquiat. When asked where the fake Basquiat paintings came
             from, defendant responded, "I don't know. They could have come
        14
11:04AM
        15
             from a storage locker. I think at that time I was, like,
        16
             almost 90 percent sure they did."
        17
                        When asked where he had acquired the paintings,
        18
            defendant responded, quote, "either a storage locker, an estate
             sale, a clear-out, I don't know. I had a lot of stuff coming
        19
11:04AM
        20
            in, so I don't know."
        21
                        Defendant was asked: "Did somebody paint them for
        22
            you?"
        23
                        Defendant responded, "No."
        24
                        Defendant was asked whether he painted the works
        25
            himself. He responded, "No."
11:04AM
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1 At the time of the interview, defendant knew that he 2 and J.F. had created the paintings and that his statements to 3 the contrary were untruthful. His statements that he did not make the paintings or have someone make them for him were 4 material to the activities and decisions of the FBI and were 11:04AM 5 6 capable of influencing the agency's decisions and activities. 7 Turning to the October 13, 2022, interview and false 8 statements. On October 13 of 2022, FBI special agents interviewed defendant at the United States Attorney's Office in 11:05AM 10 11 Los Angeles, within the Central District of California. 12 In the beginning of the interview, defendant was 13 again advised that lying to the interviewing agents would constitute a crime. Defendant admitted that he knew, quote, 14 "it was a lie" that the artwork came from Mumford's storage 11:05AM 15 16 locker. Nevertheless, defendant still denied making the 17 Fraudulent Paintings. 18 Defendant -- excuse me. 19 Agents showed defendant a label on the back of one 11:05AM 20 of the Fraudulent Paintings. The painting was one of the items 21 the defendant had sold and that was later displayed in the 22 Orlando Museum of Art. 23 Agents pointed out that a shipping label bearing defendant's name and former address was attached to the 24 25 cardboard on which the painting had been created. There was 11:05AM

1 dry paint on top of the shipping label. Defendant claimed that 2 he had never seen the work and said that he had no idea how a shipping label bearing his information got on the back of it. 3 Defendant denied making the art and claimed that he 4 could not think of anyone else who could have been involved in 11:06AM 5 6 its creation. 7 At the time of the interview, defendant knew that he had created the Fraudulent Paintings, that he and J.F. had 8 fabricated a series of Fraudulent Paintings together, and that a label bearing his name was on the artwork because the 11:06AM 10 11 cardboard had been in his possession prior to the painting's 12 creation. His statements that he did not make the paintings or have someone make them for him were material to the activities 13 and decisions of the FBI and were capable of influencing the 14 11:06AM 15 agency's decisions and activities. 16 Turning to the October 21, 2022, interview and defendant's admissions. 17 18 On October 21 of 2022, FBI special agents interviewed defendant at the United States Attorney's Office in 19 11:07AM 20 Los Angeles within the Central District of California. 21 Defendant admitted that he, quote, "lied about the entire thing" and that he, quote, "created the pieces" with his 22 23 friend J.F. Defendant admitted to signing a notarized document 24 for a group of buyers, including L.M. and T.B., stating that 25 the Fraudulent Paintings came from Mumford's storage unit 11:07AM

```
1
            bearing unit No. 2125.
         2
                        He told the agents that he signed the document and
         3
            had it notarized after T.B. offered him 10,000 or $15,000 to
         4
             sign the paperwork. Defendant said that he was never paid.
                        Defendant told agents that in approximately 2017 or
11:07AM
         5
         6
             2018, he informed L.M. that he could not prove the Mumford
         7
            provenance story, and L.M. reacted with anger.
         8
                        THE COURT:
                                    Thank you.
         9
                        Mr. Barzman, do you understand what the prosecutor
            just said?
11:08AM
        10
        11
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        12
                        THE COURT: Is everything she said, including what
        13
            she said about you and your conduct and intent true and
        14
            correct?
11:08AM
        15
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        16
                        THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty because you did
             the things that the prosecutor described?
        17
        18
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        19
                        THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty because you are
11:08AM
        20
            guilty?
        21
                        THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
        22
                        THE COURT: Ms. McKenna, is the Government satisfied
        23
            with the factual basis?
        24
                        MS. MCKENNA: Yes, Your Honor.
        25
11:08AM
                        THE COURT: Does the Government agree that the Court
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1
            has complied with the requirements of Rule 11?
         2
                        MS. MCKENNA: Yes, Your Honor.
                        THE COURT: Mr. Koury, do you agree that the -- that
         3
         4
             the Court has complied with the requirements of Rule 11?
                                    I do, Your Honor.
11:08AM
         5
                        MR. KOURY:
         6
                        THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, in Case
         7
            No. 2:23-CR-169-MEMF, how do you plead to Count 1?
                                        Guilty.
         8
                        THE DEFENDANT:
         9
                        THE COURT: Mr. Barzman, I'm going to make certain
11:09AM
        10
             findings. If you don't understand what I say or if you
        11
            disagree with what I say or if you want to talk to your lawyer,
        12
            please interrupt me or ask your lawyer to interrupt me right
        13
            away.
        14
                        In the case of United States versus Barzman, I have
11:09AM
        15
            questioned the defendant and his counsel on the offer of his
        16
            plea of guilty to Count 1 of the Information, a felony; the
        17
            defendant and his counsel have advised me that they have
        18
            conferred concerning the offered plea of quilty and all aspects
        19
            of the charge against the defendant and any defenses he may
11:09AM
        20
            have; I've observed the defendant's intelligence, demeanor, and
        21
            attitude while answering questions and I've observed that the
        22
            defendant does not appear to be under the influence of any
        23
            medicine, drug, or other substance or factor that might affect
        24
            his actions or judgment in any manner. Based upon this, I find
        25
            that the defendant is fully competent and capable of entering
11:10AM
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	1	an informed plea and is aware of the nature of the charges and				
	2	the consequences of the plea.				
	3	I further find that the plea of guilty is knowingly,				
	4	voluntarily, and intelligently made with a full understanding				
11:10AM	5	of the nature of the charges, the consequences of the plea, and				
	6	the defendant's constitutional rights.				
	7	I further find that the plea is supported by an				
	8	independent factual basis containing each of the essential				
	9	elements of the offense.				
11:10AM	10	I accept the plea, and I order that the plea be				
	11	entered.				
	12	Let's go off the record for a moment to discuss the				
	13	sentencing date.				
	14	(Off-the-record discussion.)				
11:11AM	15	THE COURT: Okay. We're back on the record.				
	16	The date of August 18th does work.				
	17	A written presentence report will be prepared by the				
	18	Probation and Pretrial Services Office.				
	19	So, Mr. Barzman, you're going to be asked to provide				
11:12AM	20	some information for that report, as your attorney alluded to.				
	21	Your lawyer may be present if you wish. Both of you will be				
	22	able to read the report and file objections before the				
	23	sentencing hearing. And both of you will be able to speak on				
	24	your behalf at the hearing.				
11:12AM	25	Now, I want to emphasize to you, you're going to				

	1	have a conversation with your lawyer about the best way to			
	2	present your position on sentencing. You may submit certain			
	3	things in advance of the sentencing hearing. You may speak at			
	4	the sentencing hearing. You may have other people who know you			
11:13AM	5	present things in advance or at the sentencing hearing.			
	6	And I just want you to know that I'm going to			
	7	consider carefully anything that you submit to me in advance			
	8	and anything that happens on the date of sentencing, just like			
	9	I will consider anything presented by the Government.			
11:13AM	10 Understood?				
	11	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.			
	12	THE COURT: Okay. Now, for counsel's information, I			
	13	have asked the Probation and Pretrial Services Office to			
	14	include on my cases the judiciary sentencing information data,			
11:13AM	15	the JSIN data, so you'll see that in the presentence report.			
	16	The defendant is referred to the Probation and			
	17	Pretrial Services Office for a presentence report.			
	18	The date for sentencing will be August 18th, 2023,			
	19	at 10:00 a.m.			
11:13AM	20	Mr. Barzman, you're ordered to appear on that date			
	21	and time without any further notice or order of the Court.			
	22	No later than 14 days before the hearing, each party			
	23	shall submit either a sentencing memorandum or a written notice			
	24	of intent not to file one. Any objections to the presentence			
11:14AM	25	report, including the JSIN data, and any proposed conditions of			

1 supervised release are due at that time. 2 And then the parties are also ordered to advise the courtroom deputy clerk if they intend to present any witnesses 3 at the sentencing hearing, either in person or via Zoom. 4 would be extremely helpful to us if you could let the clerk 11:14AM 5 6 know by the Friday before so we can plan appropriately. 7 Okay. And I trust that the Government is not seeking remand in this case? 8 MS. MCKENNA: No, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. So based upon the Government's 11:14AM 10 11 position, the nature of the charges, the fact that the 12 defendant has made all of his appearances, as far as I know, 13 and given the likely sentencing range, I do find it appropriate to remain -- allow Mr. Barzman to remain on the conditions of 14 11:14AM 15 release that he's already under. 16 So, Mr. Barzman, I've already advised you of the 17 date and time of your sentencing hearing. Failure to appear 18 for your sentencing hearing is a separate crime for which you 19 can be sentenced to prison. 11:15AM 20 All of the conditions of release that currently 21 apply that are currently in place continue to apply. I don't 22 believe I've heard any -- been provided with any notifications 23 that you're not complying with the conditions of release. 24 Please know that the penalty for violating 25 conditions of release can also be severe. So it's important 11:15AM

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1
             for you to be able to remain out on your own recognizance -- or
         2
            not quite on your own recognizance but remain out of custody
         3
            pending the sentencing hearing, you'll need to continue to
             comply with the conditions of release.
         4
                        All other dates other than the sentencing date are
11:15AM
         5
            vacated as to this defendant, and all material witnesses as to
         6
         7
             this defendant are released.
                        Anything further from the Government?
         8
         9
                        MS. MCKENNA: No, Your Honor.
11:15AM
        10
                        THE COURT: Thank you.
        11
                        Mr. Koury, anything further from you?
        12
                        MR. KOURY: Your Honor, I just wanted to express my
        13
             gratitude to the Court for accommodating us in light of
            Mr. Barzman's medical condition, allowing us to sit at the
        14
11:16AM
        15
             table. While it may seem like a small gesture, it's a gesture
             that I greatly appreciate. So thank you.
        16
        17
                        THE COURT:
                                    Thank you. It was my pleasure.
        18
                        Okay. And, again, I do want to thank Ms. Ortiz for
        19
            your presence today.
11:16AM
        20
                        Good luck to you, Mr. Barzman. We will see you in
        21
            August. Thank you.
        22
                        And the Court stands adjourned.
        23
                        (Proceedings concluded at 11:16 a.m.)
        2.4
        25
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1
                     CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER
 2
 3
    COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
                            )
    STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 4
                             )
 5
 6
                I, MYRA L. PONCE, FEDERAL OFFICIAL REALTIME COURT
 7
    REPORTER, IN AND FOR THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
 8
    CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PURSUANT
 9
    TO SECTION 753, TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE THAT THE FOREGOING
10
    IS A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF THE STENOGRAPHICALLY
11
    REPORTED PROCEEDINGS HELD IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER AND THAT
12
    THE TRANSCRIPT PAGE FORMAT IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE
13
    REGULATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.
14
15
16
17
                            DATED THIS 31ST DAY OF JULY, 2023.
18
19
                                     /S/ MYRA L. PONCE
20
21
                          MYRA L. PONCE, CSR NO. 11544, CRR, RDR
                             FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
22
23
2.4
25
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